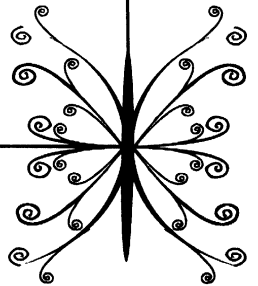


Aim and Scope of Present Study



III. AIM AND SCOPE OF PRESENT STUDY

The most important factor, which stands in the way of wider acceptance of herbal drugs, is the paucity of standard protocols for checking the genuineness, purity and quality of the raw drugs that are used in different formulations. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** in a number of resolutions has emphasized the need to ensure quality control of herbal drugs by applying of suitable standards including modern techniques. Many herbal drugs seem to remain lacking authentic diagnostic parameters in the event of checking their identity. *Akil* or *Agaru*, a renowned incense and medicinal wood of considerable antiquity, is one of the drugs that needs scientific evaluation. The primary aim of the present study is to make a comprehensive survey of the woods that are sold in the markets in the name of *Akil* and to investigate the original *Akil* on the basis of available data and direct investigation.

All the wood samples which are claimed as *Akil* by the raw-drug dealers will be subjected to detailed pharmacognostic studies. These studies will include macroscopic, microscopic, preliminary phytochemical analysis and pharmacological evaluation.

Few scattered information is available from the literature on the chemical compounds of various woods that are proclaimed as *Akil*. It is planned to make more extensive phytochemical study of the wood samples. The results of the study will enable to isolate the *Akil* from the adulterants and substitutes.

Pharmacology is basically aimed at investigation of the effects of the medicine on the biological system. This aspect of study, also known as '**Pharmacodynamics**', has dual importance. It helps to determine the biological activities on one hand and the activities will serve as '*standard*' to check the chemical identity of the drug, on the other. The wood samples are to be subjected to the pharmacological evaluation and the results will be applied to assign the original *Akil* among the woods procured from the markets.

The present study is believed to throw significant light on the scientific standardization of the time-renowned drug. The researchers and pharmaceutical industries may have the access of the protocol of *Akil* formulated by the present study.